

8. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein all or part of HLA-G and/or all or part of one or more variants thereof is expressed as a polypeptide *in vitro* and/or in a prokaryotic and/or eukaryotic cell.

10. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the activity of HLA-G and/or any combination of variants thereof and/or blood mononuclear cells and/or a subset of such cells, selected from T cells and/or natural killer cells, is measured by one or more of the following procedures.

(a) measuring the interaction of HLA-G and/or variants thereof with blood mononuclear cells and/or subsets thereof by assessing one or more of the following with respect to HLA-G expressing cells and/or blood mononuclear cells; cell proliferation, transformation, cytotoxic response, surface marker expression, cytokine production, conjugate formation and target specificity,

(b) measuring the size and/or level of all or part of HLA-G mRNA and/or its encoded polypeptide,

(c) measuring the peptide binding capability of all or part of HLA-G and/or variants thereof,

(d) measuring the binding capability of all or part of the HLA-G and/or variants thereof to a HLA-G receptor,

(e) measuring one or more molecules whose level is altered as a result of the interaction of the HLA-G and/or variants thereof and/or cells expressing HLA-G with blood mononuclear cells,

(f) measuring the expression levels of one or more genes and/or proteins in the HLA-G expressing cells.